

MEETING SUMMARY for MERCURY WORK GROUP

Date: December 10, 2002
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location: 2525 North Shadeland Avenue
Conference Room C
Indianapolis, IN

Present at the meeting:

Eric Frye (B.B. Coal), Kevin Hoge (Nisource), Tim Lohner (AEP), Tom Neltner (IKE), and Paula Yeager (IWF)

Morris Beaton of EPA participated by way of conference call.

Representing IDEM were John Donnellan, Steve Roush, Larry Wu, and MaryAnn Stevens

The following topics were discussed:

Operating Guidelines

A draft Mercury Work Group Operating Guidelines document was discussed. This document covers the topics of communications, team meetings, decision-making, and conflict resolution. Revisions to the Operating Guidelines were recently made due to comments regarding conflict resolution and communications. The revised Operating Guidelines were distributed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Work plan

The Work plan for the project is close to a final draft. The Project team members will need to be revised. Tom Neltner and Mary Ann Stevens should be added to the list. Also discussed was the need to add an additional member from a mid-sized City. A representative from Mishawaka's pretreatment program was suggested.

Task 3 from the Work plan: Identification of Background Research Needs and Preparation of Background Research Reports

Most of the meeting discussed this topic. It was decided that Steve Roush would be the Task Manager. Tom Neltner suggested, and the group concurred, that the way to address this task would be to determine what questions need to be answered in order to have the information necessary to proceed. For each of these questions, one or more team members were designated as the lead for that topic. They will research the topic and receive information from other members, if available. The following are the questions/topics and the assigned people for each:

1. What Hg removal do we get from Wastewater Treatment systems and at what cost?
(Tom Neltner/Kevin Hoge/Tim Lohner)
2. How are Water Quality Based Effluent Limits determined from the Hg water quality criteria?
(John Donnellan, Steve Roush)
3. What Hg reduction can be achieved by Pollution Prevention and Pretreatment?
(Tom Neltner)
4. What is the existing water quality regarding Hg for Indiana?
(Eric Frye)
5. What are the differences between the GLI and nonGLI Hg criteria?
(Steve Roush, John Donnellan)

6. What are other States doing to address this issue? What have they discovered about Mercury?
(Steve Roush)
8. What are the sources of Hg in wastewater?
(John Chavez - tentative)
9. What is the status of the MACT standard for Hg in air emissions and the schedule of compliance?
(Kevin Hoge)
10. What can we do to reduce Hg discharges from dental offices?
(John Chavez - tentative)

Other issues

Morris Beaton will send us documents related to how other states are addressing the Hg issue and information regarding Hg source reduction in dental offices.

It was pointed out that the expected effluent Hg concentration from a WWTP will depend on factors that include whether the community uses well water or surface water (higher Hg) for its drinking water source. Also the type of facility (municipal, industrial cooling water only) will influence the percent removal of Hg. Therefore, a Hg variance may only apply to certain types of facilities.

Action Items:

The workgroup members will research the various questions listed above and report the information to the group. Also, a couple new members may be added to the group.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled in late January or early February.